

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter Hsueh on 5/11/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 8, lines 2-3, delete "a minimum" and insert "at minimum"

Claim 9, line 3, delete "a minimum" and insert "at minimum"

Claim 16, line 2, delete "the range" and insert "the temperature range"

Claim 18, line 2, delete "at" and insert "at temperature of"

Claim 22, line 2, delete "and" and insert "and temperature of"

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Instant claims as presented in response dated 1/27/09 disclose polyurethane nanocomposite, wherein the silanol groups present on clay component form covalent bond with isocyanate compound, wherein isocyanate compound is utilized as intercalating compound.

Although instant claims are composition claims the process disclosed therein does provide a structural limitation that were not reflected in the prior art of record.

In the teachings of the prior art, the bond formed was between clay and polyol, which then is reacted to form polyurethane. Therefore there is structural difference between the disclosure of record and the disclosure of the prior art.

During updated search the examiner found another disclosure (WO 03/059817 to Lindsay, which disclosure also teaches incorporating polyol into clay platelets then reacting so formed intercalate with isocyanate. This art is therefore cited as art of interest only.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katarzyna Wyrozebski whose telephone number is (571) 272-1127. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM-2:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Katarzyna Wyrozebski/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796
5/11/09